

California Field Crop Review



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MARCH 1, 1998 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

The **California** March intention's estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,000 California farmers. The survey was conducted March 1-15, but referred to farmers' intentions on **March 1**. Therefore, the impact of weather or market conditions since that date is not reflected in this report.

COTTON: On March 1, **California** farmers were intending to plant 780 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 1998. If realized, this would be down 11 percent from the acreage seeded in 1997. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 210 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 1998. This would be 14 percent above the 185 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 1998 are expected to total 13.2 million acres, 4 percent below 1997 and 10 percent less than 1996.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 5 percent less corn for all purposes in 1998. This would be a total of 550 thousand acres of corn. **U.S.** corn growers intended to plant 80.8 million acres of corn for all purposes in 1998, up 1 percent from last year and 2 percent above 1996.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 330 thousand acres of oats, 6 percent less than last year. **U.S.** producers planned to seed 5.15 million acres of oats in 1998, fractionally below the 5.17 million acres seeded for 1997. Growers stated intentions to harvest 3.06 million acres for grain in 1998.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 500 thousand acres, 2 percent less than last year. Another 160 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 10 percent above the 145 thousand acres seeded for 1997. At the **U.S.** level, 1998's all wheat planted area is expected to total 67.0 million acres, down 6 percent from 1997. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 46.6 million acres, down 4 percent. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 4.08 million acres, an increase of 25 percent from last year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 520 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 2 percent more than the 512 thousand acres seeded in 1997. The expressed intentions were to seed 493 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 9.00 thousand to long grain, and 18.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Last year farmers seeded 487 thousand acres to medium grain, 9.00 thousand to long grain, and 16.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intend to seed 3.09 million acres this year, an increase of 1 percent from last year.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intend to plant 220 thousand acres to barley. Acres seeded for all purposes for the 1997 crop totaled 230 thousand acres. **U.S.** growers intend to seed 6.78 million acres for 1998, down 2 percent from last year.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers intend to plant 106 thousand acres of sugar beets as of March 1. This would be 5 percent above the 101 thousand acres seeded in 1997. The area planted to sugar beets for 1998 is expected to total 1.50 million acres in the 14 major producing states in the **U.S.**, 3 percent above last year.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 120 thousand acres in **California**. This would be 11 percent lower than the 135 thousand acres seeded last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.94 million acres of dry beans in 1998, up 5 percent from both last year and two years ago.

ALL HAY: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.60 million acres as of March 1. This is 7 percent above the 1.50 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers were expecting to harvest 60.7 million acres of hay in 1998, compared to 60.8 million acres in 1997.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	1996	1997	Ind. 1998	1998 1997
--- 1,000 Acres --- Percent				
Wheat (Winter) 1/				
California	640.0	510.0	500.0	98
U.S.	51,958.0	48,342.0	46,637.0	96
Wheat, Durum				
California	140.0	145.0	160.0	110
U.S.	3,630.0	3,250.0	4,075.0	125
Oats 1/				
California	300.0	350.0	330.0	94
U.S.	4,661.0	5,169.0	5,154.0	100
Barley 1/				
California	250.0	230.0	220.0	96
U.S.	7,144.0	6,910.0	6,780.0	98
Corn, All				
California	500.0	580.0	550.0	95
U.S.	79,507.0	80,227.0	80,781.0	101
Rice				
Calif.: All	502.0	512.0	520.0	102
Long	5.0	9.0	9.0	100
Medium	484.0	487.0	493.0	101
Short	13.0	16.0	18.0	113
U.S.: All	2,819.0	3,056.0	3,085.0	101
Long	1,978.0	2,279.0	2,296.0	101
Medium	826.0	759.0	769.0	101
Short	15.0	18.0	20.0	111
Cotton, Upland				
California	1,000.0	880.0	780.0	89
U.S.	14,375.5	13,566.0	12,948.0	95
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	165.0	185.0	210.0	114
U.S.	258.0	252.0	267.0	106
Dry Edible Beans 2/				
California	128.0	135.0	120.0	89
U.S.	1,843.0	1,851.8	1,940.3	105
Sugar Beets 3/				
California	84.0	101.0	106.0	105
U.S.	1,368.4	1,459.2	1,496.7	103
Hay, All 4/				
California	1,450.0	1,500.0	1,600.0	107
U.S.	60,879.0	60,815.0	60,735.0	100

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall. 2/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 3/ Relates to year of intended harvest except for over-wintered spring planted beets. 4/ Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - MARCH 1998

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for fall potatoes and Upland cotton lint. Hay other than alfalfa remained the same as the February 1998 price. Dry edible beans, all potatoes, winter potatoes, all hay, and alfalfa hay were below the previous month's level. Mid-March prices for wheat and barley were not published to avoid possible disclosure. Prices were above a year earlier for fall potatoes and hay other than alfalfa. Dry edible beans, all potatoes, winter potatoes, all hay, alfalfa hay, and Upland cotton lint were below March 1997 levels.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX RISES TWO POINTS

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 103 based on 1990-92=100, up two points (2.0 percent) from February. Price increases from February for oranges, onions, lettuce, and cattle more than offset price decreases for tomatoes, strawberries, milk, and soybeans. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of tomatoes, soybeans, asparagus, and broilers more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges. These changes contributed one point of the two-point increase in the overall index.

Compared with March 1997, the All Farm Products Index was five points (4.6 percent) lower. Price decreases from March 1997 for hogs, soybeans, cattle, and corn more than offset price increases for milk, onions, cauliflower, and calves.

The March All Crops Index was 112, up 1.8 percent from February, but 5.1 percent below March 1997. From February, price increases for vegetables, potatoes, dry beans, and food grains more than offset price decreases for oilseeds, feed grains, hay, and tobacco.

The March Food Grains Index, at 119, was up 1.7 percent from the previous month, but 12 percent below March 1997. The March all wheat price, at \$5.57 per cwt., was up 12 cents from February, but 98 cents below the March 1997 price.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index was 113, unchanged from last month, but 8.1 percent below March 1997. The corn price, at \$4.52 per cwt., was down 3 cents from February and 46 cents below the March 1997 price. The all hay price, at \$97.50 per ton, was up 30 cents from February.

The March Potatoes and Dry Beans Index, at 109, was up 5.8 percent from last month and 17 percent above March 1997. The March potato price, at \$6.30 per cwt., was up 44 cents from February and \$1.70 per cwt. above March 1997.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS a/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 1997	February 1998	March 1998	March 1997	February 1998	March 1998
----- Dollars -----							
Corn <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.98	4.55	4.52
Wheat <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	7.57	<u>c/</u>	<u>c/</u>	6.55	5.45	5.57
Oats <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.97	5.06	5.03
Barley <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	6.31	5.83	<u>c/</u>	4.94	4.98	4.58
Sorghum Grain <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.37	4.06	4.07
Rice <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	10.20	9.66	9.68
Dry Edible Beans <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	39.50	28.60	28.10	23.30	21.40	21.40
All Potatoes <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	9.95	10.10	9.90	4.60	5.86	6.30
Winter	Cwt.	22.00	22.80	20.40	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	4.70	7.80	7.90	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	126.00	123.00	121.00	102.00	97.20	97.50
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	127.00	125.00	123.00	116.00	106.00	104.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	89.00	99.00	99.00	80.10	74.10	77.40
Upland Cotton Lint <u>b/</u>	Lb.	0.774	0.697	0.736	0.693	0.620	0.628
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	---	---	108.00	---

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	March 1996	February 1997	March 1997	March 1996	February 1997	March 1997
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	685	642 <u>e/</u>	653	108	101 <u>e/</u>	103
All Crops	583	541 <u>e/</u>	553	118	110 <u>e/</u>	112
Food Grains	431	371 <u>e/</u>	377	136	117 <u>e/</u>	119
Feed Grains and Hay	440	406 <u>e/</u>	403	123	113 <u>e/</u>	113
Cotton	586	524 <u>e/</u>	531	114	102 <u>e/</u>	104
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	472	520 <u>e/</u>	551	93	103 <u>e/</u>	109
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates <u>f/</u>	1,529	1,517 <u>e/</u>	1,507	117	116 <u>e/</u>	115
Parity Ratio <u>g/</u>	45	42	43	92	87	90

a/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. b/ Previous month revised to monthly average. c/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure. d/ Monthly average. e/ Revised. f/ All production indexes as of 15th of month. g/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS

California's fall potato stocks as of April 1, 1998 were estimated at 1.60 million cwt., 6 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 38 percent of the 1997 fall production, compared to 37 percent of the previous year.

The 15 major potato states held 129 million cwt. of potatoes on April 1, 1998, down 13 percent from a year earlier, but 11 percent above 1996. Storage accounted for 32 percent of 1997 fall production in the storage states, down 1 percentage point from last year. Disappearance of 278 million cwt. was down 6 percent from last year, including an 8 percent drop in processing.

Western states held 97.9 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1998, down 10 percent from last year, but 12 percent above 1996. Idaho's stocks fell 9 percent from a year ago, but were 3 percent above two years ago. Idaho's storage held more than half the western stocks. Colorado's stocks were down 15 percent, Oregon's stocks were off 26 percent from last year, and California's stocks dropped 6 percent. Washington's stocks were off 2 percent from last year, but Montana's seed growers gained 5 percent. Each of the western states, except California, had more potatoes in storage than two years ago.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS BY STATE

State	Crop of 1996			Crop of 1997		
	Production	Total Stocks Apr. 1, 1997	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Apr. 1, 1998	Percent of Production
	---- 1,000 Cwt. ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt. ----		Percent
California	4,600	1,700	37	4,200	1,600	38
Colorado	29,175	12,900	44	25,377	11,000	43
Idaho	142,800	56,000	39	135,430	51,000	38
Maine	21,175	8,400	40	19,170	7,400	39
Michigan	13,800	1,900	14	14,250	2,600	18
Minnesota	24,600	8,500	35	20,440	6,800	33
Montana	3,213	1,900	59	3,328	2,000	60
Nebraska 1/	4,402	1,025	---	7,527	1,510	---
New York	7,980	350	4	8,408	250	3
North Dakota	28,820	10,000	35	21,525	7,700	36
Ohio 1/	1,275	---	---	1,175	---	---
Oregon	30,124	13,300	44	27,161	9,800	36
Pennsylvania	4,208	410	10	3,190	380	12
Washington	94,990	23,000	24	88,060	22,500	26
Wisconsin	31,590	8,500	27	27,923	4,800	17
15-STATE TOTAL	442,752	147,885	33	407,164	129,340	32

1/ Combined Nebraska and Ohio to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

SPRING POTATOES

California production of spring potatoes is forecast at 6.99 million cwt., 16 percent below last year. Harvested acreage, at 18.9 thousand, is down 9 percent from 1997. The yield is forecast at 370 cwt. per acre, 30 cwt. below last year. Crop condition was slightly below normal.

U.S. spring potato production in 1998 is forecast at 20.6 million cwt., down 5 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 87,800 acres, up 2 percent from a year ago, but 2 percent below two years ago. The average yield, projected at 234 cwt. per acre, is down 18 cwt. from last year and 15 cwt. below 1996.

SPRING POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production		
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	--- 1,000 Acres ---				--- Cwt. ---		--- 1,000 Cwt. ---		
Alabama	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	175	170	304	263	238
Arizona	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.5	275	275	2,475	1,705	1,788
California	20.7	18.9	20.7	18.9	400	370	7,538	8,280	6,993
Florida	34.5	36.8	33.3	34.5	199	187	7,765	6,641	6,455
Hastings	25.5	26.5	24.5	24.5	210	190	6,325	5,145	4,655
Other	9.0	10.3	8.8	10.0	170	180	1,440	1,496	1,800
No. Carolina	17.0	17.5	16.5	17.0	200	185	3,230	3,300	3,145
Texas	8.3	10.0	8.0	9.5	195	205	1,105	1,560	1,948
U.S. TOTAL	88.3	91.2	86.2	87.8	252	234	22,417	21,749	20,567

GRAIN STOCKS

California's stocks of all wheat in all positions on March 1, 1998 were 20 percent above a year earlier. Barley off-farm stocks were up 66 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm corn stocks increased 24 percent. On March 1, California off-farm storage facilities had 1.62 thousand tons of oats and 12.1 thousand tons of sorghum grain.

U.S. stocks of all wheat in all positions on March 1, 1998 were 42 percent above a year earlier. Corn stocks were up 10 percent and barley stocks were up 2 percent. U.S. oat stocks in all positions totaled 1.78 million tons, and sorghum grain stocks totaled 6.40 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 1997	Dec. 1, 1997	Mar. 1, 1998
ALL WHEAT	---- Tons ----		
California			
On-Farm	15,000	36,000	21,000
Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	259,980	391,500	307,860
Total	274,980	427,500	328,860
U.S. Total	24,654,570	48,577,260	34,987,860
CORN			
California <u>2/</u>			
Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	192,472	368,088	239,400
U.S. Total	125,835,584	202,909,168	138,239,640
BARLEY			
California <u>2/</u>			
Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	34,080	40,896	56,472
U.S. Total	4,149,600	5,886,264	4,250,880
OATS			
California <u>2/</u>			
Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	1,600	960	1,616
U.S. Total	1,528,992	2,311,216	1,783,872
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California <u>2/</u>			
Off-Farm <u>1/</u>	19,180	17,528	12,096
U.S. Total	7,679,672	10,468,332	6,403,684

1/ Off-Farm figures include stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

2/ California On-Farm stocks and total stocks for barley, corn, oats, and sorghum are not published separately but are included in U.S. totals.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in **California** mills and warehouses on March 1, 1998 totaled 1.07 million cwt., down 16 percent from the 1.28 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 74 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 5.88 million cwt., 27 percent above last year.

California rough rice stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 25.8 million cwt. This was 18 percent above the 21.8 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 22.2 million cwt., with the remainder in mill storages.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1, 1997	Mar. 1, 1998	Mar. 1, 1997	Mar. 1, 1998
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	21,800	25,785	80,144	88,051
Long Grain	a/	a/	47,871	53,329
Medium Grain	21,026	24,382	31,665	33,596
Short Grain	a/	a/	608	1,126
MILLED RICE TOTAL	1,280	1,073	4,611	5,879
Whole Kernels Total	970	790	3,786	4,986
Long Grain	32	36	2,622	3,871
Medium Grain	859	725	1,079	1,080
Short Grain	79	29	85	35
Broken Kernels Total	310	283	825	893
Second Heads <u>b/</u>	278	256	623	711
Screenings	---	---	20	27
Brewers	32	27	182	155

a/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

b/ California figure includes screenings.

OFF-FARM ROUGH RICE STOCKS: BY MONTHS, CALIFORNIA, 1995-98

Month	Season		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --		
October 1 <u>a/</u>	4,927	4,647	4,515
December 1	31,179	35,031	34,664
March 1	23,445	20,377	23,670
August 1	10,261	7,776	

a/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total. May include some carryover from previous season.